



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 10, 2019

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

Route To: High School Principals, School Counselors, Bilingual/ESL Supervisors, World Language Supervisors

From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D.
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Deadline: November 1, 2019

2019-20 State Seal of Biliteracy Program: District Information and Participation

The 2019-20 school year is the fourth year that the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will offer the option for graduating high school students to attain the State Seal of Biliteracy by demonstrating proficiency in English and one or more world languages. Students who attain this distinction will receive a transcript notation and a Department-issued certificate indicating the awarding of the Seal of Biliteracy, a program that was enacted by [legislation](#) in 2016.

The NJDOE has developed criteria to designate students as biliterate. For detailed information on the criteria, please visit the NJDOE [Seal of Biliteracy webpage](#). For school districts to denote participation in the State Seal of Biliteracy program, an electronic application will be disseminated through the NJDOE's County Offices of Education; the completed application is due no later than **November 1, 2019**.

In addition, the NJDOE will host webinars in early November and early December for districts new to the State Seal of Biliteracy process. Districts currently participating are also welcome to join in the webinars. Registration information will be shared in the future with districts that denote participation by the **November 1, 2019** deadline.

In the interim, please direct questions to the Title III & Bilingual/ESL Unit, Office of Supplemental Educational Programs at ell@doe.nj.gov or to the World Languages Coordinator, Division of Academics and Performance at worldlang@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group